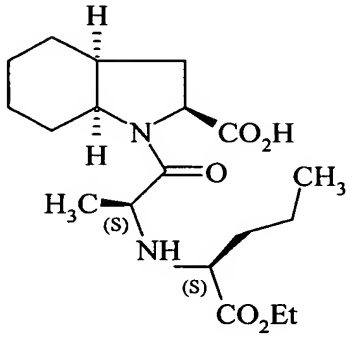
LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (CANCELED)

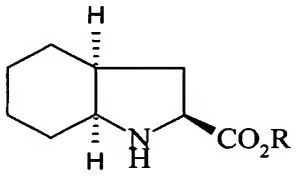
9. (NEW) A process for the synthesis of a compound of formula (I) :



(I)

and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts,

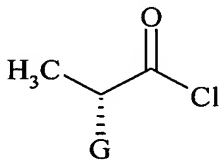
wherein a compound of formula (II) :



(II) ,

wherein R represents hydrogen, benzyl or linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl,

is reacted with a compound of formula (III) having the (R) configuration :

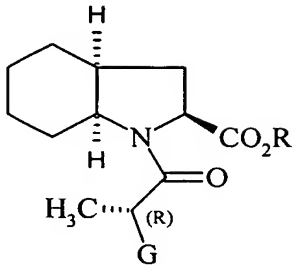


(III)

wherein G represents chlorine, bromine, iodine, hydroxy, p-toluenesulphonyloxy, methanesulphonyloxy or trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy,

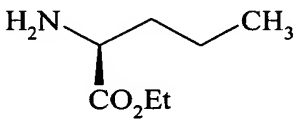
in the presence of a base,

to yield a compound of formula (IV) :



(IV)

which is reacted with the compound of formula (V) having the (S) configuration :



(V)

to yield, after deprotection where necessary, the compound of formula (I).

10. (NEW) A process according to Claim 9, wherein the base used for the reaction between the compounds of formulae (II) and (III) is an organic amine selected from triethylamine, pyridine and diisopropylethylamine, or a mineral base selected from NaOH, KOH, Na_2CO_3, K_2CO_3, $NaHCO_3$ and $KHCO_3$.

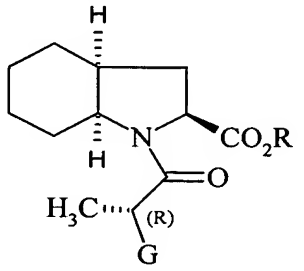
11. (NEW) A process according to Claim 9, wherein G represents chlorine, bromine, p-toluenesulphonyloxy, methanesulphonyloxy or trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy.

12. (NEW) A process according to Claim 11, wherein the reaction between the compounds of formulae (IV) and (V) is carried out in the presence of an organic amine selected from triethylamine, pyridine and diisopropylethylamine, or of a mineral base selected from Na_2CO_3, K_2CO_3, $NaHCO_3$ and $KHCO_3$.

13. (NEW) A process according to Claim 9, wherein G represents hydroxy.

14. (NEW) A process according to Claim 13, wherein the reaction between the compounds of formulae (IV) and (V) is carried out in the presence of an activation reagent selected from N-methyl-N-phenyl-aminotriphenylphosphonium iodide and hexamethylphosphorus triamide together with ammonium perchlorate, or, when R is other than hydrogen, by Mitsunobu reaction.

15. (NEW) A compound selected from those of formula (IV) :



(IV)

wherein R represents hydrogen, benzyl or linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl and G represents chlorine, p-toluenesulphonyloxy or methanesulphonyloxy.

16. (NEW) A process according to Claim 9 for the synthesis of perindopril in the form of its tert-butylamine salt.